

Axminster Urban
Axminster Rural
Honiton Borough
Honiton Rural
Seaton Urban

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR
No. 2 SANITARY AREA
DEVON
1949

Medical Officer of Health—Duncombe Steele-Perkins

	Sanitary Inspector	Surveyor
Axminster Urban ...	L. H. White	F. J. Smith
Axminster Rural ...	L. H. White	F. J. Smith
Honiton Borough ...	R. B. Bailey	R. B. Bailey
Honiton Rural ...	F. J. Baxfield	F. J. Baxfield
Seaton Urban ...	P. Bradley	P. Bradley

Annual Report

for No. 2 Sanitary Area for 1949,

comprising:—

AXMINSTER URBAN, AXMINSTER RURAL, HONITON BOROUGH,
HONITON RURAL, AND SEATON URBAN.

DUNCOMBE STEELE-PERKINS, *Med. Officer of Health.*

*To the Chairmen and Councillors for the
District comprising No. 2 Sanitary Area.*

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1949.

We have now experienced a year of the working of the National Health Act, and although it has thrown an enormous amount of additional work on the General Practitioner, yet on the whole, I think, one must be fair and say that, considering the vastness of the project, the Act has been by no means a failure, and I have no doubt in years to come, when the whole scheme has been licked into shape, it will prove of untold benefit to the people of this Country. If only one could lessen the amount of form filling, and the weeding out of people who call on the Doctor for trivial complaints, then I think we should have a greater co-operation amongst the Medical men, and the Act would be assured of success.

The year has again been marked by the entire absence of Diphtheria in my Area, and this is no doubt due to the Immunisation of the Children in my Area. This is now carried out by the County Authorities in conjunction with their School Medical Service. This change over took place when the National Health Act came into force.

The year has again been one of freedom from any serious outbreak in Infectious Disease, and I will deal fully with this under each Area, when I will give the total number of cases of Infectious Disease occurring in each Area.

Progress in Water Supplies seem at last to be on the move. The Pinhay supply has now been approved to the villages of Musbury, Kilmington and Shute, and should be completed by the end of 1950, while the Honiton Rural Scheme to supply Offwell, Cotleigh and Wilmington has been practically completed. This latter Scheme is supplied by the Honiton Borough Council from their Springs at Wilmington, and the Honiton Rural District appreciate very much the help given by the Honiton Borough Council in getting this Scheme completed.

Steady progress has been made in all Areas, with the exception of Seaton, in their Housing programmes, but in the near future Seaton, I hope, will be well away with their programme so long delayed through no fault of the Council.

I am perfectly satisfied that a great deal more could be done in alleviating the shortage of Houses if the Government would only allocate more Houses to private enterprise. This could be easily done by limiting the expenditure on any one House built by private enterprise to a figure of say £1,500 to £1,800 a House. Scores of people who now occupy Council Houses would be only too glad to build and own their property, thereby releasing a large number of Council Houses to those who could not afford to build their own, and this would immediately reduce the number of applicants for Council Houses and relieve the rates of an ever increasing burden in financing these Housing Schemes, which, unless something of this nature is done, we shall never see the end of Housing shortage, and the increasing rates are presently going to engulf us.

I would like to extend my grateful thanks to my Sanitary Staff for their very close co-operation and splendid work during 1949. I have a grand Staff and it is a great pleasure to work with them.

AXMINSTER URBAN.

Area	...	...	...	667 acres
Population	...	...	...	2,626
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£20,767
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	£82 15s. 0d.

Infectious Disease.

			1949	1948
Measles	...	...	8	2
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	13	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	1
Para Typhoid	...	...	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	0	2
Pneumonia	...	...	0	1
Puerpural Pyrexia	...	...	0	0
Cerebro Spinal	...	...	0	0
Ophth. Neon.	...	...	0	0

Deaths.

Number of Deaths registered from all causes :—

1948—(17 Males, 17 Females)	...	...	34
1949—(15 Males, 19 Females)	...	...	34

Live Births.

Number of Births registered :—

1948—(21 Males, 14 Females) and includes 5 illegitimate births	...	...	...	35
1949—(24 Males, 16 Females) and includes 2 illegitimate births	...	...	...	40

Still Births.

Number of above registered :—

1948—(1 Male and 2 Females registered)	...	...	3
1949—(1 Male registered)	...	...	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

1948—3 Deaths were registered.

1949—0 Deaths were registered.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered was 34, the same as 1948, and the causes of death were as follows:—

	1949	1948
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	0	0
Influenza	1	0
Cancer	7	4
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	8	5
Heart Disease	10	12
Bronchitis	1	2
Pneumonia	1	1
Disease of Circulatory System ...	0	3
Nephritis	0	1
Premature Birth and Birth Inj. ...	1	2
All other causes	5	4
	<hr/> 34	<hr/> 34

Births.—The Births show an increase, 40 births as against 35 in 1948, and I have to record 2 illegitimate births.

Infectious Disease.

The total number of Infectious Diseases reported to me during 1949 were 22 cases, including—Measles 8, Scarlet Fever 1, Whooping Cough 13.

A very good record, and one which Axminster Urban can be quite satisfied. I also note with great satisfaction the entire absence of Diphtheria for the third year running.

Meat and Food Supplies.

All the Meat for consumption in this district has been killed and inspected at the Government Abattoir, at Tiverton. With regard to "other foods," the following were condemned during the year:—10 lbs. of Fresh Mutton, 206 lbs. of Frozen Meat (Beef), 31 lbs. of Tinned Food.

Inspections have been made of 10 Shops, and other places where food is prepared, also one Slaughter House, where a few pigs are killed for owners' consumption. In all cases the premises were found to be satisfactory.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No outbreaks occurred in this district during 1949.

Water Supply and Sewerage.

No water mains or sewer extensions were carried out during 1949. Authority has been obtained for the replacement of the existing 6 inch main in Lyme Road by an 8 inch main, also for a link from Chard Street to Castle Hill in 5 inch pipes.

AXMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

Area	...	...	51,468 acres
Population	...	...	11,300
Rateable Value	...	...	£56,253
Penny Rate produces	...	...	£224
No. of Parishes	...	...	14

Infectious Disease.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified in 1949 :—

			1949	1948
Measles	...	...	28	44
Pneumonia	...	...	2	3
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	28	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	3	3
Erysipelas	...	...	0	1
Typhoid	...	...	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	0	1
Cerebro Spinal	...	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	0	1

Deaths.

1948—(68 Males, 76 Females)	...	...	144
1949—(93 Males, 88 Females)	...	...	181

Live Births.

1948—(88 Males, 91 Females)	...	...	179
10 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 179.			
1949—(109 Males, 87 Females)	...	...	196
7 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 196.			

Still Births.

1948—3 Still Births were registered.
1949—1 Still Birth was registered.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

1948—8 Deaths were registered (1 illegitimate).
1949—3 Deaths were registered (all legitimate).

Infectious Disease.—With the exception of a slight outbreak of Measles and Whooping Cough, Axminster Rural District has again experienced one of its best years for absence from major Infectious Disease since I have been Medical Officer of Health; the three cases of Scarlet Fever were very mild in type.

One outstanding point is again the absence of any cases of Diphtheria, and we have now gone several years without a case; this is due, I am perfectly certain, to the systematic Immunisation of the children, which, now under the New Health Act, is carried out by the School Medical Officers.

Deaths.—These shew a big increase for the District, 181 as compared with 144 in 1948.

The chief causes of death in the Area were :—	1949	1948
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0	1
Whooping Cough ...	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	2
Cancer ...	28	25
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	2	0
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	27	20
Heart Disease ...	66	49
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	0
Bronchitis ...	7	7
Pneumonia ...	6	3
Appendicitis ...	2	1
Other Digestive Diseases ...	1	4
Nephritis ...	4	3
Premature Birth ...	1	3
Con. Mal., Birth Injuries, Infant Disease	3	4
Suicide ...	1	2
Other Violent Causes ...	5	3
All Other Causes ...	17	15
	<hr/> 181	<hr/> 144

Births.—These remain about average, 196 as against 179 in 1948, and include 7 illegitimate births.

Meat and Other Foods.

As in previous years all meat for consumption in this district has been killed and inspected at the Government abattoir at Tiverton. The killing of occasional Pigs have been carried out at a few slaughter houses in the district to deal with a few Pigs for the owner's own consumption under the Ministry of Food Pig Killing Scheme. With regard to other foods the following were condemned during the year :— 124 lbs. of Tinned Food, 1½ st. of Cod Fillet, 68 lbs. of Fresh Mutton.

Inspections have been made of 24 shops and all premises licensed under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, and also the Knacker's Yard. In all cases premises were found to be satisfactory.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning in the district for this period.

Four Hotel kitchens were inspected in Beer and three Restaurants, and three premises used for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream were also inspected. The majority of people selling Ice Cream received Ice Cream from outside the district either pre-packed or in bulk, and in all cases enquiries were made to the Local Authority controlling the source if production was satisfactory.

Water Supply.

The following water supplies (piped) are private ones :—

- (a) The Clinton Devon Estates Supply, Beer
- (b) Mr. Good's Supply, Combpyne
- (c) Woodhouse Water Co., Woodhouse Hill
- (d) Lyme Regis Water Co.
- (e) Stedcombe Estate Supply, Axmouth
- (f) Feoffees Supply, Colyton

In the cases of supply (c) this scheme has now been superseded by the Council's own extension to cover this particular area, so that this very doubtful supply has now been left by all its consumers who are enjoying the Council's main supply. The other supplies have all been satisfactory, with the exception of the Beer supply, which, during the very dry weather, suffered. Analysis results have shown these private supplies to be in the following classes :—

- (a) Clinton Devon Estates. This, usually when the Couchill Springs are only used, is a Class 1 supply, though during the last Summer there was a shortage of water.
- (b) Mr. Good's supply, Combpyne. This is a plentiful supply and falls into Class 3 for piped supplies. There is a possibility that this supply will be superseded eventually by the extension main from Rousdon to Musbury.
- (c) Remarks as before.
- (d) Lyme Regis Water Co. This Company, which supplies Lyme Regis, also supplies Rousdon, and an extension main is proposed to Musbury and Whitford. This is Class 1 piped supply.
- (e) Stedcombe Estate Supply, Axmouth. This supply is a Class 1 supply, and bacteriological examination has shown that it has never dropped below Class 2.
- (f) Feoffees Supply, Colyton, which supplies the whole of Colyton, is a Class 1 water supply.

During the last Summer, with its exceptional drought, supplies were very well maintained throughout the whole district, but there is a great need for water in most of our Parishes where there is no main supply. Villages such as Dalwood and Kilmington are especially in need of piped supplies, and I visualize a difficulty in building Council Houses in the future unless our water supply schemes are proceeded with, and for a similar reason the same remarks apply for sewerage. It seems such a waste of money building small sewerage plants when the capital expenditure and subsequent maintenance costs could be put into a proper sewerage scheme. Unless water and sewerage problems are proceeded with, nuisances and complaints will still continue.

Works carried out during the year ended 31/12/49.

- (1) Extension of water mains at Woodhouse Hill, Uplyme—1,560 yards.
- (2) Extension of water mains at Walley Lane, Uplyme—422 yds.
- (3) Permanent extension of approximately 150 yards, of sewers at Musbury, and construction of temporary sewage plant.

A water main extension has been commenced at Abbey Gate, and the renewal of a main at Gully Shoot, Colyford, has been started, and these two works will be completed during the present year. Authority has been obtained for the extension of mains to Harcombe, and this will be carried out during the current year. An additional ram will also be fitted at Chardstock.

HONITON BOROUGH.

Area	...	...	3,134 acres
Population	...	...	3,620
Rateable Value	...	...	£30,892
Penny Rate produces	...	...	£125 8s.
Civilian Population	...	3,620	
Military Population	...	925	
		—	4,545

Deaths.

Number of Deaths registered from all causes :—

1948—(34 Males, 20 Females)	...	...	54
1949—(17 Males, 19 Females)	...	...	36

Live Births.

Number of Live Births registered :—

1948—(32 Males, 38 Females)	...	...	70
5 illegitimate births were registered, and are included in the above total of 70.			
1949—(38 Males, 34 Females)	...	...	72
3 illegitimate births were registered, and are included in the above total of 72.			

Still Births.

1948—3 Still Births were registered (2 illegitimate).
1949—2 Still Births were registered (1 illegitimate).

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

1948—6 Deaths were registered (all legitimate).
1949—2 Deaths were registered (both legitimate).

Infectious Disease.

The following cases were notified in 1949 :—

		1949	1948
Scarlet Fever	...	0	1
Diphtheria	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	36	1
Measles	...	7	2
Erysipelas	...	1	0
Pneumonia	...	5	6
Puerpural Pyrexia	...	0	0

The health of the Borough has again (with the exception of the outbreak of Whooping Cough) been very good, and has been marked by an entire absence of any cases of Diphtheria. A few cases of Pneumonia occurred in the early Spring, but beyond that we have a record which is very good.

I would point out that for the fifth year in succession no cases of Puerpural Fever have occurred, and this terrible disease of childbirth has now practically disappeared for some years. This is entirely due to the excellence of the District Nurses, who in the main do all the Midwifery in the district.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered were 36 as compared with 54 in 1948. The chief causes of death were :—

	1949	1948
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	1
Cancer ...	4	6
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	3	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	2	7
Heart Disease ...	11	19
Bronchitis ...	2	4
Pneumonia ...	2	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	0	2
Con. Mal., Birth Injuries, Infant Disease, Premature Births	2	3
Diabetes ...	0	1
Road Traffic ...	0	2
Other Violent Causes ...	1	2
All Other Causes ...	6	3
	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 54

Report on Water Supplies.

The Honiton Borough is supplied by 3 sources of water supply :

- (a) Copper Castle Supply.
- (b) St. Cyres Supply.
- (c) Wilmington Supply.

COPPER CASTLE SUPPLY. This supply is from Springs at Springfield, situated in a field adjacent to the main Honiton to Axminster Road. The Springs are piped to collection chambers, where the water is filtered by slow sand filters and stored in an underground reservoir. The water is not of excellent quality, and at certain times during the year is liable to pollution. When pollution occurs this supply is turned off and not used for consumption. It is proposed to discontinue this supply completely as soon as the necessary new distribution mains have been installed.

ST. CYRES SUPPLY. This supply consists of Springs piped to open storage reservoirs on St. Cyres Hill. Slow sand filters are installed, together with an underground storage reservoir. The water is chlorinated after leaving the reservoir, and piped by gravitation to the town area. During recent years the yield of water from these Springs at St. Cyres has been decreasing, and water from this supply has to be conserved as much as possible. A bulk supply of water is afforded to Combe Raleigh in the Rural District.

WILMINGTON SUPPLY. This supply was originally installed by the War Department to supply Heathfield Camp, Honiton, but the works were purchased by the Council after the cessation of hostilities. An abundant supply of Spring water is available at Wilmington, and the works are capable of extension at any time—further water being available within approximately half a mile radius of the works. The water is pumped to a reservoir at Springfield, and gravitated to the town area. Also a bulk supply of water is afforded to the Rural District Council to supply the villages of Offwell, Cotleigh and Wilmington from the Council's reservoir.

GENERAL. During the past year the Council were faced with a serious position due to the drought. Auxiliary pumping had to be carried out at St. Cyres, and new link mains installed to provide water under adequate pressure, but at no time was it found necessary to restrict the supplies.

The Rural District Council were given a bulk supply from the Springfield reservoir, and a new pump was installed at Wilmington in order to cover the maximum demand.

It now appears that with the increased building of Council Houses in the Borough, and the establishment of Heathfield as a permanent Military Camp, and the fact that the Council is affording bulk supplies to the Rural District Council, and has offered similar facilities to other Local Authorities in the Area, that the position with regard to water is still precarious until such time as major reconstruction work is carried out at the pumping station at Wilmington, and the storage capacity is increased at Springfield. In this respect it is anticipated that considerable expenditure will have to be incurred. The formation of a Water Board embracing this Borough has been discussed, but no specific information is yet to hand on the matter.

Samples of the Water Supplies are taken at regular intervals, and generally prove to be satisfactory. Where any pollution is discovered, this is remedied immediately. It has been proved that the St. Cyres Water is more or less surface Spring water, but after filtration and chlorination the water is rendered sterile and fit for consumption. Of the 24 samples taken during the year, six of these proved to be unsatisfactory. These unsatisfactory samples were anticipated, they having been taken from the Copper Castle supply after heavy rain following a long period of drought. All necessary precautions were taken until good samples were obtained. Two samples for chemical analysis were taken, and these proved to be satisfactory.

In the Borough there are now very few well supplies, and it is estimated that 90% of the population is supplied by means of a piped supply.

Sewerage.

The Sewerage Works in the Borough are maintained in a good manner, but it is obvious that some future extension will have to be considered in order to deal with the additional volume of sewage from the new Council Houses. Samples of the effluent taken during the year proved to be satisfactory.

Meat and Foods.

Inspections are made of premises where food is prepared and sold, and there has been a decrease in the condemnation of tinned foods which were found to be blown or otherwise unfit for consumption. All premises where ice cream is sold or manufactured have been inspected, and the premises conform with the regulations.

No centralised slaughtering is carried out at Honiton, with the exception of animals killed by licence from the Food Office, and it was found necessary to condemn the carcass, &c., of one pig, the lesions of which were generalised tuberculosis.

Food Poisoning.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning.

Clean Food Regulations.

The Council are adopting the new Clean Food Regulations.

HONITON RURAL DISTRICT.

Area	...	...	61,265 acres
Population	...	...	7,060
No. of Parishes	...	...	22
Rateable Value	...	...	£27,565
Penny Rate Produces	...	...	£109

Infectious Disease

As you will observe by the following Chart, Honiton Rural District had a severe outbreak of Measles in the early part of the year.

I am very glad to report that for the second time on record Diphtheria has been entirely absent, no cases having been reported; also no cases of Puerpural Fever have been reported to me.

		1949	1948
Scarlet Fever	...	2	1
Diphtheria	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	21	6
Measles	...	132	22
Pneumonia	...	22	2
Erysipelas	...	0	3
Puerpural Pyrexia	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	1	1

Deaths.

Number of deaths registered from all causes:—

1948—(37 Males, 43 Females)	...	...	80
1949—(49 Males, 39 Females)	...	...	88

Live Births.

Number of Live Births registered:—

1948—(68 Males, 61 Females)	129
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The number of illegitimate births registered was 3, and are included in the above total of 129.

1949—(75 Males, 74 Females)	149
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The number of illegitimate births registered was 2, and are included in the above total of 149.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

1948—8 deaths were registered (5 Males, 3 Females)

1949—5 Deaths were registered (1 Male, 4 Females)
including 0 illegitimate.

Still Births.

1948—Number of Still Births registered was 3.

1949—Number of Still Births registered was 3 (1 illegitimate).

Births.—These show an increase, 149 as compared with 129 in 1948.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered were 88, as compared with 80 in 1948. The chief causes of death were:—

	1949	1948
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	2	0
Cancer (all forms) ...	13	14
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	8	9
Heart Disease ...	32	26
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	1
Bronchitis ...	3	3
Pneumonia ...	2	4
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	2	0
Diabetes ...	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2	3
Other Digestive Diseases ...	3	4
Nephritis ...	1	0
Other Maternal Causes ...		0
Premature Births ...		3
Con. Mal., Birth Injuries, Infant Disease	4	3
Road Traffic Accidents ...	1	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	1	0
All Other Causes (includes 3 Suicides)	12	9
	<hr/> 88	<hr/> 80

Sewerage and Water, 1949

AWLISCOMBE. Extension of Regional Scheme to supply Awliscombe approved in principle. Council House Well still intermittent in supply, and water carried thereto during period of drought. No action re sewerage.

BRANSCOMBE. Springs to Village supply cleared and rodded, generally all right. Sewer extended to supply Bank and new Council Houses.

BROADHEMBURY. Investigation carried out to supply proposed new Council Houses, and details being worked out for Chlorinating Plant.

BUCKERELL & COMBE RALEIGH. No action at Buckerell, but Combe Raleigh is now supplied from the Borough supply at St. Cyres.

COTLEIGH. New Regional Scheme Main installed and working.

DUNKESWELL, FARWAY AND FENITON. No action.

GITTISHAM. Scheme to supply this village is now under consideration, and I hope the work will be started in 1950.

LUPPITT AND MONKTON. No action.

NORTHLEIGH. Supply polluted by surface water. Consulting Engineer engaged to provide Chlorinating Plant.

OFFWELL. Work proceeding on Regional Scheme, and now in operation.

PAYHEMBURY AND PLYMTREE. No action.

SHELDON. Additional springs brought into ram supply. Now adequate and satisfactory.

SOUTHLEIGH AND TALATON. No action.

UPOTTERY. Additional springs brought into Rawridge Water Scheme.

WIDWORTHY AND YARCOMBE. No action.

Note—Gittisham Water Supply Scheme held up waiting for pipe. Sewerage Scheme for Luppitt Council Houses in hand, and Sewerage Scheme for Wilmington completed and ready for submission to Ministry of Health.

Report on Provisions of Sewerage Schemes

- COMBE RALEIGH. E.P.—190. Including the 6 Council Houses, 19 Houses could be easily sewered at reasonable cost by the provision of one length down the road from the Church, and one length from the Council Houses. Natural fall along the line of the stream for disposal.
- COTLEIGH. E.P.—165. This community is too scattered, and it would be impracticable to sewer at reasonable expense.
- DUNKESWELL. E.P.—280. 19 Houses could be sewered by Y-branches from Disposal works sited near the stream. Very steep fall. Not much future for expansion in this Village.
- GITTISHAM. E.P.—312. This Village is the most compact of the lot. Approximately 34 to 40 Houses could be sewered. Disposal Works could be cited to north of Village by the stream. To sewer the above would require approximately 100 yards of main from the disposal, and three branches of approximately 150 yards.
- MONKTON. E.P.—145. Including existing Council Houses, 24 Houses could be sewered. The four old Council Houses would have to be sewered separately across fields to connect into a length from the Village. In spite of the fairly scattered nature of this Village, I feel that it could be sewered quite cheaply.
- NORTHLEIGH. E.P.—140. Approximately 20 Houses, the Village Hall, A.C.F. Hut and School could be sewered in two sections. Disposal close to the stream by the pub.
- OFFWELL. E.P. 302. 17 Houses could be sewered in two sections falling to the Church, and disposal could be arranged down over the hill. The area which could be sewered is very compact, and the work could be carried out at reasonable cost.
- PAYHEMBURY. E.P.—412. 32 Houses could be included in a scheme for this Village. Disposal could be arranged on the other side of the field from the Council House Disposal Plant. Sewer could be laid along the road.
- PLYMTREE. E.P.—325. This Village would have to be dealt with in two groups, owing to the configuration of the ground, unless some suitable disposal point could be found within a reasonable distance of both groups. In the first group around the Church 12 properties could be served to disposal below Tyes Farm, and in the second group 15 properties. The main problem will be finding a suitable site for Disposal Works, otherwise cost of capital works would be reasonable.
- SHELDON. E.P.—110. This community is very scattered, and the difficulty here is that to sewer satisfactorily, one length from Sheldon Court and one length from the Council Houses would fall to a point below the Church, and disposal plant would have to be installed above the catchment area for the existing water supply. Therefore, the sewerage of the 11 Houses which could be served would have to be deferred until the proposed water supply scheme from Dunkeswell is in operation.

TALATON. E.P.—450. 26 Houses around the Church could be sewerred to Disposal Works below the School. The configuration of the land varies sharply here, and while it is practicable to sewer, the need for tumbling bays would add to the cost.

Parishes in which I consider it advisable to go further into the cost of works, levels, &c., in order of importance are:—Gittisham, Offwell, Monkton, Northleigh, Payhembury, Plymtree, Combe Raleigh, Dunkeswell, Talaton, Sheldon and Cotleigh.

As remarked before, the two latter can be deferred for the time being.

It might also be considered worth while to go into the possibility of extending the Branscombe sewer so far as the Village Hall, as the Council's water undertaking is now being extended by the provision of a service to the Hall.

SEATON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Area	...	...	1,190 acres
Population	...	...	2,971
Rateable value	...	...	£32,382
Penny Rate produces	...	...	£129 4s. 3d.

Deaths.

Number of Deaths registered from all causes:—

1948—(27 Males, 27 Females)	...	...	54
1949—(19 Males, 36 Females)	...	...	55

Live Births.

Number of Live Births registered:—

1948—(19 Males, 14 Females)	...	...	33
2 illegitimate births are included in the 33 registered.			
1949—(13 Males, 6 Females)	...	...	19

1 illegitimate birth is included in the 19 registered.

This is the lowest birth rate recorded for many years.

Still Births.

1946—0 were registered.

1947—0 were registered.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

1948—0 were registered.

1949—0 were registered.

Infectious Disease.

The following cases were notified during the year:—

		1949	1948
Scarlet Fever	...	2	1
Puerpural Pyrexia	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	7	0
Measles	...	27	1
Pneumonia	...	3	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	0	0

Seaton still maintains its good record of freedom from Infectious Disease during the year, only two cases of very mild Scarlet Fever, 27 cases of Measles, and 7 cases of Pneumonia were reported.

Although not so good as 1948, yet for a seaside resort it is exceedingly good. As will be noted in my report, Measles were very prevalent everywhere in my area.

Deaths. The number of deaths registered from all causes were 55 as compared with in 54 1948. The causes of death were:

	1949	1948
Tuberculosis	0	0
Influenza	0	0
Cancer (all forms)	8	9
Diabetes		0
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	6	8
Heart Disease	23	17
Bronchitis	2	1
Pneumonia	3	1
Nephritis		2
Con. Mal., Birth Injuries, Infant Disease		0
Violent Causes and Suicide	2	3
Other Diseases of Digestive System		3
Other Diseases of Circulatory System...	4	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	0	4
Duodenal Ulcer	0	1
All Other Causes	7	4
	<hr/> 55	<hr/> 54

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of my Sanitary Inspector:—Mr. P. Bradley.

As requested I herewith submit my report. 1949 was my first year as Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector to the Seaton Urban District Council. Soon after taking up my duties I was instructed to prepare a new scheme of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal works to serve my Council's Housing site as also existing private development in the Scalwell Lane area. This scheme was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health in October last. A considerable amount of time was taken up in the preparation of the above scheme.

Inspections made during the Year.

Routine Inspections under the Public Health or Housing Acts	83
Inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds	9
Disinfection following Infectious Disease	4
Housing Inspections	21
Watering Sampling	3
Inspections of New Buildings & Alterations to Existing Buildings	16
Inspections and Testing of New Drains	19
Inspections of Ice Cream Establishments	5
Examinations of Unsound Food	16
Inspections under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act	11

Housing.

My Council built 6 new Houses in Eyewell Green during the year. On the whole the standard of housing is reasonably good, but there are Houses which are definitely sub-standard, and which will have to be dealt with in due course when more new Houses are available.

Water Supply.

The public supply is taken from Holyford gathering ground. It is partly impounded surface water and partly from springs and land drains in the catchment area. The water is treated with sulphate of alumina and lime, passed through sand filters under pressure and chlorinated before going into supply. Three sets of samples were analysed. With respect to the water before treatment, the examinations disclosed no pollutive conditions in the gathering area and the treatment of the water was found to be effective and satisfactory. 1949 was a remarkably dry year, and although the supply of water was restricted to consumers for almost three months there was never at any time a flow over the V. notches (taken together) of less than 150,000 gallons a day, so that Seaton was fortunate in having a supply which remained constant, and which was available for essential needs throughout the Summer visiting Season, and of course for the remainder of the year. The water is believed to be free from plumbo solvent action. With the exception of one or two isolated cottages the whole of Seaton is supplied from the public water mains.

Food.

16 inspections were made, and it was found necessary to condemn and destroy a number of tinned foods. A small quantity of meat was condemned because of bone taint, and certain prepared meats were condemned as stale and unwholesome. No known outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred.

Slaughter Houses.

There are no Slaughter Houses in use in the town.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

There is a weekly house-to-house refuse collection service, and during the year my Council took delivery of a new 10 cubic yard Dennis Collection Vehicle. Refuse continues to be burnt in the Destructor situated close to Harepath Road. My Council continues the house-to-house collection of refuse in the Parish of Beer by arrangement with the Axminster R.D.C.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Sewerage is for the most part by way of the Eastern Outfall to the sea, and in respect of 14 houses plus the Glen (converted into nine flats) by way of sewer outfall to the sea in Seaton Hole. The Northern part of the town is referred to in the first paragraph of this report.

Public Health Nuisances.

The most important nuisance which occurred during the year was that at the Kennels in Harepath Road where hounds are kept, and food is prepared on the spot for their consumption.

Your obedient servant,
DUNCOMBE STEELE-PERKINS,
Medical Officer of Health.

